

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS MAJESTY, KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ'S ACCESSION TO THE THRONE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on June 9, 1996, citizens of Thailand celebrated the 50th anniversary of the accession to the throne of His Majesty, King Bhumibol Adulyadej. This is a joyous moment for the people of Thailand and the people of the United States join with them on this special auspicious occasion.

The King is a good friend of the United States. He permitted Thailand to be the most supportive nation in the region throughout the Vietnam war. He always makes sure that Thailand is a tremendous refuge for people fleeing repressive governments in the region.

The King has underscored that Thailand is a democracy in an otherwise undemocratic region. His tact, intelligence, and grace has enabled Thailand to grow and prosper. He is in constant touch with his people and he travels regularly throughout Thailand.

The King was born 68 years ago here in the United States and he is the world's longest serving living monarch. He is known as the "working king" because of his extensive travels throughout Thailand and the 2,000 projects in Thailand that he initiated.

Because of his diligent work, Thailand is a beacon of hope and serves as an example for other nations in the region.

Accordingly, I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing His Majesty, King Bhumibol Adulyadej's a long, healthy, and prosperous life on this auspicious occasion of the 50th anniversary of his accession to the throne.

STOP ATTACK ON CALIFORNIA AVOCADO JOBS

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, as we consider the fiscal year 1997 Agriculture Appropriations Act, I want to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues of another Clinton administration attack on California agricultural jobs. Six thousand American avocado growers and 21,000 avocado industry workers are in danger of losing their livelihood should the USDA implement its proposed plan to modify the quarantine on Mexican Hass avocados. The quarantine was placed in 1914 to protect our avocado crops from Mexican pests and fruit flies.

During a trip to Mexico City, USDA Secretary Dan Glickman spoke about lifting the current ban. He continues to tell me that he is "absolutely committed to a sound, well-founded, science-based decision on this proposal." This is what I expect from the USDA. However, Secretary Glickman continues to ignore the warnings of independent scientists at the University of California Riverside and elsewhere that infestation of pests from Mexico is very likely if the quarantine is lifted. The USDA believes that Mexico can handle their serious

pest problem. But, science has proven that Mexico has failed for years to destroy pests. NAFTA specifically left the quarantine intact because our Government knows that Mexican pests would devastate American avocados. The University of California Center for Exotic Pest Research released an important report based on their studies, entitled "Risks of Exotic Pest Introductions from Importation of Fresh Mexican Hass Avocados into the United States." Secretary Glickman must carefully consider the results of this report before a final rule is made.

Mexican pest-infested avocados have already been smuggled across our border. On January 5, 1996, the U.S. Customs Service confiscated and destroyed 3,337 pounds of Mexican Hass avocados at the Olay Mesa commercial facility in San Diego County. The driver, who had previously been arrested for the same offense, admitted to similar smuggling activities in recent months. Although U.S. Customs officials thought they were seizing a truck loaded with drugs, they definitely touched on a problem of significant concern to California's avocado growing region.

It is evident that the USDA proposal will only harm our country. I encourage my colleagues to give me a call, should any of you have questions about this plan to destroy the crops and lives of American avocado growers and workers. We must stop this attack against California jobs.

HONORING THE SMITHVILLE- DEKALB COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Smithville-DeKalb County Rescue Squad. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that should disaster strike, we know that our friends and neighbors are there to help.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a member of the rescue squad. Rescue squad members undergo a training series over a 4- to 6-month period which includes instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation [CPR], vehicle extrication, emergency driving, and rescue orientation. In addition to this training, rescue squad members also meet monthly to address business concerns as well as hear guest speakers.

Rescue squad members are volunteers. They receive no pay for what they do. What also makes their service especially outstanding is that the organizations themselves receive no funding. They receive no funding from the city, the county, or the Federal Government.

Rescue squads are funded in the same spirit of community voluntarism which moves them to serve. Family, friends, and neighbors pitch in at bake sales, road blocks, and fish fries to help those who sacrifice their time for the benefit of the whole community.

Committing such an amount of spare time and energy to a job so emotionally and physically taxing requires a sense of devotion and duty for which we are all grateful.

GILBERT DE LA ROSA HONORED FOR LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO CITY OF PICO RIVERA

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to a friend of mine, the Honorable Gilbert "Gil" De La Rosa, Pico Rivera City Councilman. On Saturday, June 8, 1996, the board of directors of the Intercommunity Blind Center will recognize Gil for his many years of dedicated service to the city by honoring him with its Distinguished Leadership Award.

Gil served on the Pico Rivera City Council from 1982 to 1990. He served as mayor in 1986, and is currently mayor pro-tempore. He was elected again to the council in 1994.

He also was elected to the El Rancho Unified School District Board of Education in 1966, and was reelected to this position four times, serving until 1982. He was appointed to a management skills team to represent the California School Boards Association, and advised districts throughout the State on good management techniques. Gil was elected president of the Mexican-American School Boards Association in 1981, and was appointed by the National School Boards President to a 10 person task force that developed an investment procedure for school districts throughout the United States.

Gil is an active member of the Pico Rivera Lions Club, and served as its president in 1984-85. His extensive work with the St. Francis of Xavier Holy Name Society, and the Beverly Hospital Foundation, on whose board he has served for 16 years, are well known and respected throughout the community. His involvement in the community also includes membership on the board of directors of the Pico Rivera Redevelopment Agency, and the Pico Rivera Housing Assistance Agency; he also serves with the League of California Cities Environmental Quality Committee, the United Way Board, Pico Rivera Transportation Committee, and is a member of the Southeast Mosquito Abatement District.

Gil has received three gubernatorial appointments as a probate referee, and has been honored as a life member of the California Parents and Teachers Association. He is a member and now serves as immediate past president of the Intercommunity Blind Center. Gil is a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served in WWII. He and his lovely wife, Sylvia, live in Pico Rivera.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Honorable Gilbert De La Rosa for his many years of selfless service to the Intercommunity Blind Center, the city of Pico Rivera, and to our Nation.

A TRIBUTE TO LESTER OLINGER

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Lester